

a tube structure having an outer surface for engaging the body and an inner surface, said inner surface defining a passage extending through the tube structure and through which the surgical instruments are inserted into the body, said tube structure having a proximal end and a distal end, said passage having a first cross-sectional area between said proximal end and said distal end,

said tube structure including an expandable portion for enabling an increase in the cross-sectional area of said passage at said distal end of said tube structure to a second cross-sectional area which is greater than said first cross-sectional area.

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8.
30. A cannula for receiving surgical instruments, said cannula comprising:

a first tubular portion having a first outer surface for engaging the body and a first inner surface defining a first passage for receiving the surgical instruments, said first passage having a first diameter, said first tubular portion having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a second tubular portion attached to said distal end of said first tubular portion, said second tubular portion having a second outer surface for engaging the body and a second inner surface defining a second passage for receiving the surgical instruments, said second passage being a continuation of said first passage,

said second tubular portion being diametrically expandable to enable enlargement of said second passage to a

size which is greater than said first diameter of said first passage.

Claim 2, line 1, please change "23" to --29--.
 Claim 4, line 1, please change "23" to --29--.
 Claim 5, line 1, please change "23" to --29--.
 Claim 8, line 1, please change "23" to --29--.
 Claim 11, line 1, please change "10" to --30--.
 Claim 14, line 1, please change "10" to --30--.
 Claim 17, line 1, please change "10" to --30--.
 Claim 20, line 1, please change "10" to --30--.

REMARKS

Entry of the present amendment in the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, previous claims 23 and 10 are canceled and new claims 29 and 30, respectively, are added in their place. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 are amended to depend from new claim 29, and claims 11, 14, 17 and 20 are amended to depend from new claim 30. Thus, claims 2, 4-8, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, and 24-30 are pending in the application.

The indication in the Office Action of June 21, 1999 that claims 24-28 are allowed is respectfully acknowledged. It is respectfully submitted that claim 16 should also be allowed since claim 16 was previously amended (in the response of March 17, 1999) to depend from allowed claim 27.